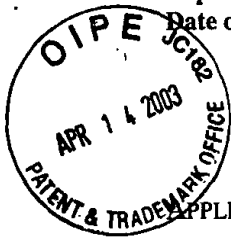


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Attorney Docket No. 15966-638CIP (Cura-138CIP)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Gerlach et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/898,586

EXAMINER: R. Li

FILING DATE: July 3, 2001

ART UNIT: 1646

FOR: NOVEL POLYPEPTIDES AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO JANUARY 15, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated January 15, 2003 ("Office Action"), Applicants file this amendment and response. With no extension of time, these documents are due on or before April 15, 2003. Please charge any payments or credit any overpayments of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, reference 15966-638CIP (CURA-138CIP).

AMENDMENTS

*In the Claims:*

Please amend claim 19, add new claims 80-83 and replace the pending claims with the following:

- C1
19. (Thrice Amended) A method for determining the presence or amount of a nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24 and further comprising nucleotides 45-54 of SEQ ID NO:23 or a variant thereof, wherein said variant comprises a nucleic acid sequence wherein one nucleotide is changed from the nucleotides 45-54 of SEQ ID NO:23, or the complement of said nucleic acid sequence, said method comprising:
- (a) providing said sample;
  - (b) introducing said sample to a probe that binds to said nucleic acid molecule; and